

CATS



The Official Journal of the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group

Presidential Ramblings

[Due to the earliness of the Newsletter deadline and the fact that the President is in the middle of moving, he was not able to get to his QL and whip up an article.

- ED]

From The Editor:

It's nice to know that more than a few people were concerned about the lack of article submissions. It was a topic of much discussion at the last meeting (Yesterday as I write this). At the meeting a few people have promised to submit articles.

Due to my 2.5 week trip and the early article deadline, I don't have any new articles. But, as a quick fix, people have given me articles from other newsletters.

The biggest item this month is the latest CATS membership roster. It's been a few years since we have published one. It's surprising to see how many out-of-town members we have.

The most interesting news of note this month is three shareware emulators of and for Sinclair computers.

Extricator is a ZX81 (64K) emulator for the QL. Spectator is a Spectrum Emulator (48K with Interface 1) for the QL. Xtender is a ZX81 emulator for MS-DOS. All three programs are \$20 each, fully tested, and can be bought from the author Carlo Delhez, Emmastraat 3, 4651 BV Steenberg, Netherlands. If anybody in the group buys one, I hope they will write a review for the newsletter (hint, hint).

A year ago the International QL Report came onto the QL scene. I was not too sure how good it was going to be or how well it was going to do. But, due to thier contacts in Europe, the IQLR is about the best source for QL news.

The overall format is a combination of news and some programs, but I think that they could make it on just a news format alone. They are very up-to-date on hardware, software, on general happenings.

The hot bed of QL happenings is in Europe, especially England and Germany. There is enough QL users in both countries to support a QL market in new hardware and software. Plus a number of freeware C programs have been ported to the QL, allowing access to more "mainstream" software.

Besides the IQLR, I keep in contact with a number of people in Germany and Italy. I'm constatly hearing about new programs being ported to the QL. As I get copies of the stuff, I'll keep all informed.

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Key Dates

11 April: CATS Meeting
11:00 Workshop
1:30 Executive Board Meeting
2:00 General Meeting

21 April: Newsletter Deadline
For the Next Issue

9 May: CATS Meeting

Meeting Subject

Non-Hardware PC to QL Transfers from
PC to QL given by Tom Robbins. Tom will
show us how to transfer data between the
QL and the PC.

This allows QL users to send data to PC
users. It also opens up the QL to a wide
variety of data available on the PC.

Things are looking up for the QL,
but things seem to be in a holding
pattern for the T/S 2068. I've have
not heard much news about the T/S
2068 lately. I hope the lack of new
software does not force any T/S 2068
users to other machines. With the
software already available, the 2068
can still get most jobs done. Just
look at some of the pages of Update
to see what the 2068 can do in
DeskTop Publishing.

That's all I have to say for now.
Hope to see the articles come
rolling in soon.

Happy Hacking,

Tim

How to Alter a File/Disk

by Ian Pizer

From Quanta March 1992

I have tried to modify various
files at different times with
minimum success. I have tried
using an editor program but it
truncated long lines or did funny
things. I have a monitor program
which allows files to be loaded to
memory and modified but I have not
had great success using it.

So my mind has been churning over
the idea of using the command BPUT
of QJUMP Super ToolKit II in a
SuperBasic program. You may wonder
why I need or want to do such tricks
- well, there is the business
sometimes of wanting to change MDV
to FLP or RAM and other crazy ideas.

Like I wanted to load TurboQUILL+
into RAM and run it from there now
that there is plenty of memory
thanks to GOLDCARD (I have not
succeeded but QUILL now refuses to
use the translate table for
printing, but I will beat that
eventually!). No doubt there exists
software to do such manipulations
but I do not have it. Well, it was
also a mental exercise.

There are 50 lines of SuperBasic,
and you must have the ToolKit II

loaded so that BPUT is operative. Lines 100 to 240 allow you to choose your program, and to find a word of any length which you may want to change.

The program prints the file on the screen and beeps each time it finds your word and writes a vertical bar CHR\$(255) after each find. It also prints in #0 the file position of the first character of each found word (see Procedure FINDWORD). Till that point your file remains unchanged.

You are then asked for the replacement work (Procedure NEWWORD), which MUST have the same number of characters, and you can indicate which one of the possible words found you wish to replace. You may choose to do this for only one or all the words that were found.

Here is the program - but BEWARE - if you try it, do so with a copied program, not on one you know works, in case you screw it up.

```

100 INPUT "full file name? ";f$
110 n=-1 : lp=1
120 INPUT "find which word ? ";w$
130 l=LEN(w$)
140 OPEN #3,f$
150 DIM pos(10):c=1
160 REPEAT getit
170   n=n+1
180   k$=INKEY$(#3)
190   IF EOF(#3): getout :
newword : STOP
200   PRINT k$
210   IF k$<>w$(lp):lp=1
220   IF k$=w$(lp) AND lp<>1 : lp
= lp+1
230   IF lp=1 AND k$=w$(1) :
foundit
240 END REPEAT getit
260 DEFINE PROCEDURE getout
270   BEEP 3000,30
280   PRINT #0:PRINT #0," All
";f$;" has been searched"
290 END DEFINE getout
310 DEFINE PROCEDURE foundit
320   PRINT CHR$(252);:PAUSE 15
330   pos(c)=(n-1+1):c=c+1
340   lp=1:PRINT #0,n-1+1;" ";
350   BEEP 300,0
360 END DEFINE foundit
380 DEFINE PROCEDURE newword
390   PRINT

```

```

400   PRINT "replace old word by
new"
410   INPUT "of same length. new
= ";nw$
420   PRINT c-1;" old words
found"
430   REPEAT modif
440     INPUT "choose between 1
and ";c-1;" or 0=exit ";w
450     IF w=0: EXIT modif
460     FOR nn= 1 to 1
470       BPUT #3\pos(w)-1+nn,
CODE(nw$(n))
480     END FOR nn
490   END REPEAT modif
500 END DEFINE newword

```

Toward a New (QL) World Order

by Ed Kingsley

From NESQLUG Jan/Feb 1992

I write many documents with text in columns and Quill isn't much help in automatically rearranging text. I have found that Abacus is a handy program with some word processing functions unavailable in Quill.

One can edit columns of text or numbers and alphabetize and ORDER them in Ascending sequence. (such _aba files can be Exported to Quill or printed-out from Abacus).

If like me, however, you have ever attempted to order a list of text or numbers in Descending alphabetical or numerical order, you have probably found yourself out of luck. Order only works one way, unless you modify a copy of Abacus with Config_bas.

Recently, I needed to order a column of (100) names in Descending alphabetical order (Z to A) and did it thusly:

1) First, with the names in column C, I ordered column C in Ascending order. (eg. F3, O, C, C1:C100) (A to Z)

2) Then, in cell A1, I put the formula "col=row()-100". (the number 100 is arbitrary, use whatever number represents the number of items you wish to order.)

O. A. T. S. ROSTER AS OF 3/15/92

ACORD, TIMOTHY 8104 LITTLE RIDGE LANE FAIRFAX STATION, VA 22039-3035 703/690-7613	01/93	DIGGS, ROBERT 89 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NORTH EAST, MD 21901 <->	05/92	JOHNSON, ROY H. 6804 DARTMOUTH AVE COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740 301/779-8636	06/92
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BENNETT, DAVID R. 329 WALTON ST. (REAR) LEMOYNE, PA 17043 717/774-7531	04/92	FISHER, MARK 700 ERIE ST. TAKOMA PARK, MD 20912 301/589-7407	11/91	KEALY, JOAN P.O. BOX 1439 BRACKETTVILLE, TX 78832 <->	06/92 N/L
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<->		202/686-9151		LINDENWOLD, NJ 08021	
				<->	

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3) Next, in cell B1, I put the formula "A1*(-1)".

4) Then, I ECHOed that formula down Column B to the extent of the text. (eg. F3, E, B1, B2:B100)

Initially, column A contained a list of negative (but still Ascending) numbers beginning with (-99) in Cell A1, and continuing down (up numerically) to (0) in Cell A100.

In column B, the "A1*(-1)" formula in each Cell copied and printed the number(s) from column A, but changed the sign of each number so that it became a Descending column of numbers (eg, 99 to 0). Then, by ORDERing on column B, column C was inverted and appeared in Descending order.

I used the Commands: Grid, Delete, Columns A to B, to eliminate Columns A & B and my test was then in Column A, just the way I wanted it. I imagine that the order of numerical data may be similarly inverted. Just remember to do the ORDERing on Column B.

NOTE: When a Column is ORDERed, every Column in the same numerical range (eg, 1 to 100) gets rearranged with it. If you have other data in adjacent columns (to the left or right) which should not be disturbed, first move the data to be ORDERed to an unused area of the spreadsheet (down NOT right or left) with the COPY command. ORDER it there and then COPY it back where you want it.

OK, it's not elegant, but it's reasonably simple and it does work.

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301/773-0962

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CATS maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users Groups across the U.S. and Canada. Groups not sending a newsletter to us for six months are automatically taken off the list.

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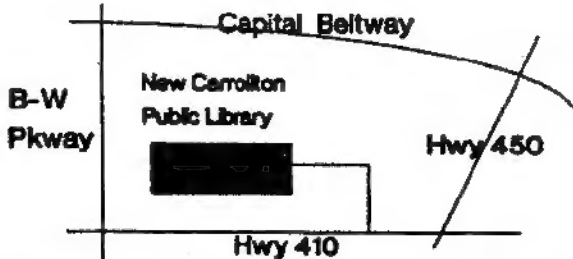
Executive Board

The Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group is a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 11017
Takoma Park, MD 20913



The next meeting of CATS will be held on: April 11, 1992

11:00 AM Hardware Workshop

2:00 PM General Meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library 7414 Riverdale Road (Hwy 410), New Carrollton, MD

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS. THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579. 8-N-1. 300/1200 baud. News and general information, 24 hours a day.

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Newsletter

Monthly meetings are held from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM, on the second Saturday of each month, at the New Carrollton Public Library.

Meetings